

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed April 30, 2004. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-7 were pending in this application. Claims 1-7 were rejected, with claims 2-5 being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims have been amended, as helpfully suggested by the examiner, to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,282,153 to Bartkowiak (hereinafter "Bartkowiak"). Claims 6 and 7 have been canceled.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include all elements and limitations of allowable claim 2, and claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 3-5 depend from amended independent claim 1, and contain all limitations thereof.

All amendments are made in a good faith effort to advance the prosecution on the merits. Applicant reserves the right to subsequently take up prosecution on the claims as originally filed in this or appropriate continuation, continuation-in-part and/or divisional applications.

Applicant respectfully submits that no amendments have been made to the pending claims for the purpose of overcoming any prior art rejections that would restrict the literal scope of the claims or equivalents thereof.

Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments submitted herein be entered, and further request reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all objections and rejections, and that there be an early notice of allowance.

SUMMARY

In light of the above amendments and remarks Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of the same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone or facsimile.

Applicant believes that there are no fees due in association with the filing of this Response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, Applicant respectfully requests that the Commissioner accept this as a Petition Therefor, and direct that any and all fees due are charged to Baker Botts L.L.P. **Deposit Account No. 02-0383, (formerly Baker & Botts, L.L.P.) Order Number 068354.1443.**

Respectfully submitted,

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